

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HELENA LOCAL AND MONTANA SENATE AIDE WITT WILLIAMS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE AND EXAMPLE ON BEHALF OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to honor an outstanding public servant and brilliant young man who refuses to let his disability limit his potential.

Witt Williams is a Helena, Montana native whose parents received the difficult news that their son was born deaf and would likely finish high school reading at a 4th-grade level. Unwilling to accept the limitations of his condition, Witt worked tirelessly with his mother, Wendy, to ensure that he kept up with his hearing peers.

Witt excelled as a student-athlete while attending Helena High, competing on the varsity tennis team and the Great Divide Ski Team, where he placed in the Slalom at the Winter Deaflympics. Witt further distinguished himself in extracurriculars by representing his school at the Montana Behavior Initiative Leadership Conference.

Witt Williams defied the odds that often befall those who are hearing impaired and graduated from Montana State University last spring with a degree in Exercise Science/Kinesiology. His success is all the more impressive considering that he accomplished all this while maintaining a grade point average of 3.75 and graduating with high honors.

Witt currently works for the Montana State Legislature as a Majority Aide. Like any good Montana man, he also has interests outside the legislature and works as a ski racing coach at Great Divide Ski Area and serves as the varsity tennis coach for Helena High School.

I want to commend Witt for his dedicated work in the legislature and in his local community. Witt Williams is an example for all Montanans to follow, and it is my privilege to acknowledge his contributions in the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER DUKES AND SETON HALL'S 1953 NIT CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Walter Dukes and the 1953 Seton Hall University National Invitational Tournament (NIT) Championship team. It was ex-

actly 70 years ago that Dukes led the Seton Hall Pirates to the NIT championship. It was a remarkable achievement for Dukes and his teammates, who fought racism and segregation during their historic championship season.

Walter Dukes was Seton Hall's seven-foot tall, African-American center during that magical 1952–53 season. Like most championship teams, the 1952–53 Seton Hall was well-coached with strong players at every position. The Pirates won 31 games that season and lost only two games. They remain the only New Jersey college basketball team to have won a national tournament championship. Dukes was their indisputable leader who pulled down a remarkable 734 rebounds that year, an NCAA Division 1 record that still stands.

Yet, many college basketball fans didn't approve of his presence on a basketball court dominated by white players. At the time, *Life Magazine* wrote about the experience for Dukes and the Seton Hall Pirates under the headline: ROUGH GAME. ROUGHER SEQUEL. In a four-page article, the magazine memorialized one of the ugliest, race-related moments in college basketball history— an angry mob attacking Dukes and his teammates following a loss against the University of Louisville Cardinals.

At the end of the 1952–53 regular season, the Pirates chose the NIT instead of the NCAA Tournament in order to avenge their loss to Louisville. Unfortunately, they never had that opportunity as Louisville was eliminated from the tournament. But, the Seton Hall Pirates continued to win and beat St. John's University, 58–46, to win the 1953 NIT title. Walter Dukes, Seton Hall's star center, was named NIT Most Valuable Player.

Walter Dukes continued to play basketball professionally for a few years with the Harlem Globetrotters and then in the National Basketball Association (NBA) with the New York Knicks, Minneapolis (now Los Angeles) Lakers, and the Detroit Pistons. After his basketball career, Dukes became a civil rights lawyer to protect the rights of African Americans. He died in 2001 of natural causes at the age of 70.

Walter Dukes and his Seton Hall teammates are legends in New Jersey and college basketball lore. They are a team that should inspire all of us for their courage as they battled racism in their pursuit of a championship. Their 1952–53 championship season bears witness to the importance of character and faith to success.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. BOB BELL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of

Mr. Robert "Bob" Bell. Passing away at the age of 82, Mr. Bell leaves behind an indelible legacy of service to his country and the Winters community.

Born in Missouri in 1940, Mr. Bell spent his early years learning to play the piano, trumpet, and bass, cultivating what would become a lifelong love for music. His passion for the arts continued into adulthood and he played the bass for over 60 years.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Bell joined the Air Force, bravely serving our country in Europe and Southeast Asia. Regardless of where he was stationed, Mr. Bell found opportunities to continue practicing music and played in jazz groups around the world, bringing joy and laughter to international audiences.

Following his service in the Air Force, Mr. Bell joined Golden 1 Credit Union, beginning a three-decade-long career strengthening the financial well-being of California residents. Mr. Bell's financial expertise and knowledge of economic planning significantly advanced the expansion and success of Golden 1 Credit Union. His crucial contributions and indispensable leadership played a vital role in helping Golden 1 Credit Union open 63 new branches and foster the financial stability of tens of thousands of Californians.

Mr. Bell's commitment to California was not only expressed through his tenure with Golden 1 Credit Union, but also through his public service to the City of Winters. He served on the Winters Fire Department Commissioner Board for 16 years, working tirelessly to prepare Winters for any emergency and ensure the health and safety of all Winters residents. Mr. Bell also served on the Winters Senior Foundation Board, valiantly advocating for seniors and playing an instrumental role in enhancing the quality of life for Winters seniors.

In addition to his community leadership, Mr. Bell also exemplified the spirit of altruism and innovation in all areas of his life. For 30 years, Mr. Bell was an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Davis, significantly advancing efforts to identify and address unmet needs in the Yolo County community. His vital work serving his community has helped provide the resources and services necessary to allow all Yolo County residents to thrive.

Mr. Bell will be remembered not only for his decades of service to the Winters community, but also for his genuine spirit of kindness and compassion. He impacted the lives of countless members of his community and his steadfast leadership, constant smile, and patient mentorship undeniably enhanced the lives of his fellow Yolo County residents.

Mr. Bell's enduring spirit will live on in his wife, three children, 10 grandchildren, and the community he dedicated his life to serving. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Bell's loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of Yolo County, join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING TAMMY EDWARDS' RETIREMENT FROM THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, I rise to celebrate the illustrious career of Tammy Edwards, who has served as the senior vice president of the Community Engagement and Inclusion Division at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City since 2019. As her retirement draws near, let us take a moment to reflect upon Tammy's professional accomplishments as well as her many contributions to the community she calls home.

Raised on the east side of Troost Avenue, the corridor historically used to divide Kansas City along racial lines, Tammy attended Kansas City Public Schools and graduated in the top 10 percent of her high school class. Tammy's academic prowess led to her acceptance into the INROADS program, which works to open up pathways to careers for ethnically diverse high school and college students all across the United States. While earning her Bachelor of Business Administration at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Tammy's involvement in the INROADS program helped her land an internship at United Telecom, the predecessor to Sprint Corporation. Tammy continued her internship throughout her four years of undergraduate study, and after graduating in 1984, she accepted a full-time position with the company, where she would remain for over twenty-six years. In the early years of her career, Tammy went back to UMKC to earn an MBA, which she completed in 1986.

In 2008, Tammy became the vice president of the Community Development Division at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, which covers the 10th District of the Federal Reserve. The District includes Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming, northern New Mexico, and western Missouri, where it promotes the public's interest by supporting economic and financial stability. By 2019, Tammy had worked her way up the ranks to become the Bank's senior vice president within the Community Engagement and Inclusion Division. Notably, Tammy also served as director of the Bank's Office of Minority and Women Inclusion and was a member of the Bank's Management Committee, which oversees the institution's strategic planning and policy direction.

Throughout her nearly 15 years at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Tammy helped develop a diverse and welcoming workforce and culture, led engagement initiatives for strategic stakeholders, directed programs aimed at addressing challenging community and economic development issues that affect underserved individuals and communities, helped advance women and minority bankers, and encouraged her colleagues to volunteer outside of work.

Always leading by example, Tammy serves on the board of directors for the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey, the Full Employment Council, Kansas City Scholars, the Kansas City Workforce Investment Board, Kansas City

Public Television, the Metropolitan Community College Foundation, and the Jacob and Ella Loose Foundation. Additionally, Tammy is actively involved at St. James United Methodist Church, the Greater Kansas City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and the Greater Kansas City Chamber's Executive Women Leadership Council. Tammy also frequently presents on various leadership, community and economic development, and diversity, equity, and inclusion topics. Indeed, Tammy has faithfully lived up to the words of Luke 12:48, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Tammy Edwards for her years of service to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Tammy has spent her entire career using her influence to lift up others, and I wish her all the best in retirement.

HONORING CALVIN HARWOOD

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Rep. MIKE THOMPSON, in recognition of Calvin Harwood for 25 years of exemplary public service to the Laytonville School District.

Mr. Harwood graduated from Laytonville High School and attended College of the Redwoods in Eureka, California. Consistent with his family's tradition of public service, he joined the Laytonville School Board on December 4, 1997, where he has served as board president continuously since 2000.

Over the past 25 years, Mr. Harwood played a continuous and instrumental role in upgrading school facilities. Under his leadership, the district secured new property and the community approved two local funding measures for school facility improvements. His guidance was essential to the successful construction of the new high school in 2003. During this process, he spent countless hours traveling to Sacramento to address the State Assembly and worked with the Office of Public School Construction on behalf of the district. In 2020, he once again provided stellar leadership during the major modernization of the elementary school campus.

Fellow school board members and school administrators praise Mr. Harwood's honesty and note that he has earned the trust of the school community for always doing the right thing for Laytonville and its students. As Board President, he is valued for his ability to see the big picture and apply informed decision-making to ensure all decisions are focused on long-term benefits for the students. He has been a transparent and a clear communicator when making difficult decisions, including lay-off-offs, school closures, budget cuts, school bus routes, curriculum implementation, expulsions, and not least of all, negotiations.

In addition to his work on the school board, Calvin has served as captain of the Laytonville Volunteer Fire Department, and he coached a variety of sports including little league baseball and basketball.

Mr. Speaker, Calvin Harwood exemplifies what it means to be a community-minded pub-

lic servant. His continuous volunteer service has had an enduring and positive impact on the students and the community of Laytonville, California. Therefore, please join us in recognizing Laytonville Unified School Board President Calvin Harwood.

RECOGNIZING CUSTER GALLATIN FOREST ENGINEER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT PARKS FRADY

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise and acknowledge Custer Gallatin Forest Engineer Parks Frady for his dedicated administration of Montana's National Forests and congratulate him as the recipient of the 2022 Managerial Engineer of the Year award.

Parks is a devoted member of the forest team who has distinguished himself on multiple occasions.

But this past summer, when a natural disaster ravaged the forest he manages, Parks displayed the leadership and decisive action that has earned him recognition from his colleagues.

When a 500-year flood event devastated much of the forest and surrounding lands, Parks led extensive rapid response efforts to restore emergency access and coordinated long-term reconstruction efforts to restore the area to its original state.

Under normal circumstances, this tragedy would have incapacitated Custer Gallatin Forest for months. But thanks to Parks' diligent work, the forest and surrounding community have recovered quickly and safely.

I can't thank Parks enough for his service to Custer Gallatin National Forest and the broader Montana ecosystem. His work has earned the respect of his peers, and his continued commitment to excellence will benefit the Custer Gallatin National Forest for years to come.

I'm honored to call Parks Frady a fellow Montanan and privileged to recognize his contributions in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF PETER EIBERT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Peter Eibert and his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Peter earned his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Davis where he majored in Political Science. During his undergraduate studies, Peter interned for the People's Vanguard of Davis Inc., UC Davis Athletics, and Congressman DON BACON.

Peter joined my office in June 2022 as my Staff Assistant. He contributed tremendously to providing great constituent service and has been a great mentor to interns. I would like to thank Peter for his contributions and service over the last year. He's been a valuable member of my team, and I wish him the best as he

continues his journey here at the Capitol working for Congressman DAN MEUSER.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Peter Eibert for his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation. May God bless Peter as he continues his career in public service.

HONORING THE WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CARLOS LEJNIEKS

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today, I join with my colleagues, Representatives DEAN PHILIPS, DEBORAH ROSS, and SETH MAGAZINER, to celebrate the extraordinary career and accomplishments of Carlos Lejnieks, the first Latino person to ever be elected President of the Brown University Alumni Association. Though his tenure as President may be coming to a close, the important work he does in and for the community will undoubtedly continue.

Born in New Jersey, Carlos has always been a compassionate and selfless individual. In the 1990s, Carlos dropped out of high school to help support his single mother by working at baseball-memorabilia shows. This is who Carlos is, a person always willing to step up for his loved ones and community.

Carlos was eventually encouraged by mentors to pursue higher education, which led him to Brown University in the Fall of 1996. He graduated from Brown in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in international relations and later, from the London School of Economics with a master's degree in 2004.

Carlos has spent his career giving back to the communities that put him on his path to success. In 2008, he became the CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties in New Jersey. Under his leadership, the organization went from serving approximately 100 youth in the community to serving more than 1,100 within four years.

Carlos returned to Brown University in 2015 to begin his service with the Brown University Alumni Association. He was selected to serve as the chair of the First-Generation and Mentoring Committee in 2017 and later as both the President and the Diversity and Inclusion Chair in 2019.

For the last 2 years, Carlos Lejnieks has greatly contributed to Rhode Island and the extensive Brown University Alumni network. Though his time as President may be ending, his impact at the University, in Rhode Island, throughout New Jersey, and all across this country will continue to be felt.

We look forward to seeing what is next for Carlos and extend to him our sincerest thanks for all he has done for our alma mater.

RECOGNIZING GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS'S WOMEN'S HOCKEY NCAA DIII CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2023 NCAA DIII Women's Hockey Champions: the Gustavus Adolphus Gusties from St. Peter, Minnesota.

Last week, the team won their first-ever national title in Amherst, Massachusetts in a triple-overtime match. The Gusties claimed the win with a 2–1 final score.

The championship game lasted more than 101 minutes, setting a record for the longest title game in NCAA DIII history. The Gusties' win marks the first NCAA title for a women's hockey team in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and the first for any team in the West region.

The team has been nothing but impressive all season, winning every major title and breaking a program record for wins in a season with a record of 27–3–0.

The national title is the first for Gusties Head Coach Mike Carroll, who currently ranks as Minnesota's second-winningest college hockey coach, with 492 total career wins.

It is my honor to recognize this year's NCAA DIII Women's Hockey Champions today. Thanks to the tireless leadership and encouragement from Coach Carroll, the team's staff, families, classmates, and community—these talented young women earned a state championship title and all of us across the First Congressional District are incredibly proud to call them our own.

Congratulations to Coach Carroll and his team on an unbelievable season.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REBUILDING THE UNITED STATES-FLAG INTERNATIONAL FLEET ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the bipartisan "Rebuilding the United States-Flag International Fleet Act". This comprehensive legislation would help to recapitalize the U.S.-flag international fleet of ocean-going, commercial vessels by guaranteeing government cargo during peacetime so that U.S.-flag vessels are available during wartime or emergencies.

The United States has the world's most capable navy able to operate in all five oceans, and we need an equally impressive fleet of commercial cargo vessels crewed by American mariners. For too long, Congress and both Democratic and Republican presidents have allowed the commercial fleet of U.S.-flagged, ocean-going vessels to dwindle. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the number of ocean-going U.S.-flagged vessels has declined more than 75 percent since 1985, following the 1982 treaty called the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The global supply chain crunch during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian invasion and blockade of Ukraine, and the People's Republic of China's island building in the South China Sea and saber-rattling in the Taiwan Strait have shown that the United States cannot remain reliant on foreign vessels flying flags of convenience.

The "Rebuilding the United States-Flag International Fleet Act" offers Congress the chance to enact the first comprehensive reform of cargo preference laws in decades. Our legislation incorporates recommendations for the Maritime Administration from the Government Accountability Office's report published on September 14, 2022, entitled "Actions Needed to Enhance Cargo Preference Oversight."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of the House to join me in cosponsoring this critical legislation to address this crisis facing the U.S.-flag international fleet.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI DENISE L. EGER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Denise L. Eger, who is retiring from her duties as Senior Rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami of West Hollywood.

Raised in Memphis, Tennessee, Denise taught religious school and was active in her synagogue as a teen. Although she studied opera and originally intended to be a voice major in college, Denise opted for a career in the religious field, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Religion from the University of Southern California and a Master's Degree from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion. She was ordained a Reform Rabbi in 1988, obtained her Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College in 2013 and was awarded an honorary degree in 2022 as a Doctor of Philosophy from Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

A social justice pioneer, Rabbi Eger has had many "firsts." She served as the first openly gay person and first woman as President of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, and officiated at the first legal wedding of a lesbian couple in California in 2008. Denise was the first openly lesbian or gay President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the largest and oldest rabbinical organization in North America, and had an integral role in passing CCAR's March 2000 resolution in support of rabbis to officiate lesbian and gay commitment ceremonies. She was a founding President of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Interfaith Clergy Association and served on the boards of Equality for All/No on Prop 8 and the No On Knight/No on Proposition 22 Campaign, which fought against anti-same-sex marriage ballot initiatives. Believing that activism is a significant duty of her rabbinate, she has worked extensively with persons with AIDS, serving as a past Chair of the Spiritual Advisory Committee of AIDS Project Los Angeles and facilitating an HIV+ support group for over 30 years.

Rabbi Eger has received numerous accolades for her fierce commitment and tireless

advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community and other social justice issues. In 2008, she was named one of the Forward 50 by the Jewish Daily Forward, in 2011 she was given the Community Equality Award by the Human Rights Campaign, in 2014, the City of Los Angeles honored her with the Pioneer Award during Pride Month.

A noted author and speaker, Rabbi Eger was the co-editor of *Gender and Religious Leadership: Women Rabbis, Pastors and Ministers* and the editor of the trailblazing book, *Mishkan Ga'avah: Where Pride Dwells: A Celebration of LGBTQ Jewish Life and Ritual* and has written for several news periodicals. She is a frequent commentator on television and radio on the topics of spirituality, Judaism, family and LGBTQ+ issues.

I ask all members of Congress to join me today in honoring Rabbi Denise L. Eger for 3 decades of compassionate and dynamic leadership at Congregation Kol Ami.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Bangladesh Caucus I want to recognize that 51 years ago on April 4, 1972, the United States recognized Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan.

During the nine-month-long Bangladesh Liberation War, members of the Pakistan Armed Forces and pro-Pakistani militias killed hundreds of thousands of people and injured many more. The war for independence was a struggle for democracy and freedom led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The economic situation facing Bangladesh as it emerged from the war of independence was dire. The Bengali people faced widespread poverty, chronic malnutrition of the masses, the dislocation of over 10 million people who had fled from their homes during the conflict, fragile banking and monetary system and inflation, which ran between 300 and 400 percent, and low foreign exchange resources.

The war of independence had crippled the domestic transportation system with roads, railways and bridges lying destroyed and damaged. The young country was still recovering from a severe Bhola cyclone that had hit the area in November 1970 and caused nearly half a million deaths.

Bangladesh has made enormous strides in the last five decades from one of the poorest nations to having one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, with their GDP per Capita increasing to \$2,457 in 2021 according to the World Bank which now exceeds that of its regional neighbors. Since its independence in 1971, Bangladesh's economy has grown from \$9 billion to \$450 billion, life expectancy has risen from 47 years to 73 years, and the adult literacy rate has risen to more than 75 percent. The Nation has flourished in its independence.

Bangladesh, through the leadership of current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has made substantial socioeconomic progress in food

production, disaster resilience, poverty reduction, improved health, education, and women's empowerment. Bangladesh has successfully maintained a moderate Muslim society and curbed extremism in the country, and its people have sought to maintain support for democracy and rule of law rather than descending into authoritarian rule of gun.

The United States and Bangladesh have extensive cooperation on matters of regional and global security, counter terrorism, and climate change. The U.S. is the largest export market for Bangladesh and one of the largest sources of foreign direct investment in Bangladesh. The nation of Bangladesh has contributed to the U.S. economy through bilateral trade and international security cooperation in return.

Bilateral trade between the United States and Bangladesh has increased annually with the main American exports to Bangladesh consisting of agricultural products, aircraft, machinery, engines, and iron and steel products, while American imports from Bangladesh include apparel, footwear, textile products, toys, games, sporting goods, shrimp, prawns; and agricultural products.

Further, the American people appreciate the generous and indispensable role that Bangladesh performs in accepting and sheltering more than 1 million Rohingya people from a genocide perpetrated by its neighbor, Burma. The United States has contributed the largest amount of humanitarian aid to address this crisis, totaling more than \$2 billion.

The American people welcome that Bangladesh is one of the world's largest contributors to United Nations peacekeeping efforts globally. Both countries seek to enhance their people-to-people and government-to-government relationship for shared prosperity. Bangladesh has expressed their gratitude to the United States for contributing more than 100 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to the people of Bangladesh.

The U.S.-Bangladesh relationship is strengthened by the Bangladeshi American Community and the large number of Bangladeshi students who come to the U.S. to study. More than 200,000 Bangladeshi Americans have proven themselves to be hard-working, law-abiding, and patriotic citizens of the United States, contributing positively to their communities across the country.

Today, the American people recognize and commend the Nation and people of Bangladesh as they celebrate 51 years of independence. The United States extends its sincere determination to remain a constructive partner of Bangladesh in achieving mutual economic, social, and national security objectives now and into the future.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE HONORABLE JOSEPH L. RUSSELL

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, as family, friends, and the community gather to celebrate the life of the Honorable Joseph "Joe" L. Russell, Retired Attorney at Law and College Professor, former Military Judge and California Administrative Law Judge, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this ex-

traordinary and generous businessman, community and civic leader throughout the County of Sacramento and the State of California.

Mr. Russell entered eternal rest on Monday, March 13, 2023 at the age of 80 with wife and family at his side. Today he is being celebrated at the historical landmark Shiloh Baptist Church in Sacramento, California, the Reverend Anthony R. Sadler Pastor presiding.

Born November 17, 1942, in Birmingham, Alabama to Arlee and Eva Lou Russell where he attended; was ranked high in his class and graduated from Parker High School. Joe earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Government at Howard University, in Washington DC. Joe earned his Jurist Doctorate Degree at Howard's School of Law. Upon graduating, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force where he was promoted to the rank of Captain prior to completing his tour of duty in the service of our country.

Joe met Ida P. Avant in 1963. They were married in 1966 while she was completing her undergraduate degree at Howard University, and he was completing his first year of law school. After concluding his tour of duty with the Air Force, the young couple relocated to Sacramento, California in 1972 to join fellow law school graduate, the late Judge Jimmy Long. They have resided in Sacramento since relocating to the City where they raised their two sons: Joseph Russell, Jr. and Michael Russell.

Joe was licensed and admitted to practice law before the following courts: United States Supreme Court, United States Court of Appeals, United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, United States District Court—Eastern District, United States District Court—Northern District, United States Military Court (Attorney and Judge); United States Military Court of Appeals, Alabama State Bar Court, and the California State Bar Court.

He has served the Sacramento Community, State of California and the United States of America as: a well-respected and beloved Military Judge, California Administrative Law Judge, Professor of law courses at California State University, Sacramento for more than 35 years, Attorney at Law, par excellence, for more than 40 years including private practice and as a Senior Deputy City Attorney/City Prosecutor for the City of Sacramento, Civil Leader, Deacon of Shiloh Baptist Church where he has been a very active member and faithful servant of the Lord for nearly 50 years. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, brother, uncle, mentor and friend to a multitude and with wife Ida, he was a world traveler.

A partial list of Joe's community and civic service to our community include the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, the Sacramento Urban League, Sacramento Big Brothers and Sisters, the Brotherhood and Deacon Board of the Shiloh Baptist Church, and so many more. Many of Joe's contributions to make a safer and better place in which to live, work, recreate and worship freely are unknown to the public heretofore because he was such a humble person. Joe's passing is a great loss to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to stand with me today to honor the Honorable Joseph L. Russell for his life legacy and contribution to the Sacramento community.

RECOGNIZING HELENA LOCAL AND MONTANA SENATE AIDE JACKSON RACICOT FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the work of an outstanding young man whose service in the Montana Legislature is an example of the extraordinary impact those with physical disabilities can have on their community.

Jack Racicot is an aide to the Montana Legislature and serves as a clerk for the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, Jack was on a snowboarding trip at Great Divide Ski Area near Helena where he suffered a debilitating accident that crushed his C5 vertebrae and left him paralyzed from the neck down.

After an extensive recovery at the University of Utah Medical Center, Jack returned to the Senate as an aide in the 68th Legislative Session and continues to serve with distinction to this day. Jack's courageous return to work is a poignant reminder of the strength of Montana's young men and women.

I'm humbled to see such a dedicated young man serving his state despite his injuries, and I am proud to recognize him in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE DESIGNATION OF GAINESVILLE'S NEW VA CLINICS

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, I'm proud to recognize the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System for its service on behalf of our nation's veterans through the dedication of the Gainesville Veteran Affairs Mental Health Facility, which began providing care to veterans in 2022.

The clinic, located in Gainesville, Florida, is a state-of-the-art, 39,932 square-foot facility that offers mental health intensive care management, a psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery center, a substance abuse clinic, a compensated work therapy clinic, a post-traumatic stress disorder clinic, community care, and suicide prevention services. The construction of this facility began in 2017 when it was approved by the U.S. Congress as part of the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017.

Our men and women in uniform make the ultimate sacrifice while fighting to protect our nation, and it is our duty as Americans to ensure that they have exceptional health care following their service to the Stars and Stripes.

The North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System has demonstrated a deep commitment to the needs of veterans and their families by constantly striving to expand and improve the quality of care available to our nation's heroes. The dedication of the Gaines-

ville Veteran Affairs Primary Care Facility, since its opening in 2022, has played a vital role in ensuring that our veterans in Florida's Third Congressional District are provided for through the accessibility of experienced health care providers and critical mental health resources.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System for all it has done to serve our community in Florida's Third Congressional District, and I'm excited to see how the Gainesville VA Mental Health Facility will continue to provide for our veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Housing Development Consortium for their 35 years of service and affordable housing advocacy within King County.

The Housing Development Consortium (HDC) is a nonprofit organization in King County that has supported countless housing organizations, businesses, and government organizations to meet the housing needs of people with diverse incomes. HDC is a nationally recognized leader in affordable housing advocacy, and their commitment to the Puget Sound region has made tremendous impacts. From fighting for increased funding for new low-income housing to maximizing opportunities for those living on a limited income, HDC continues to play an important role in affordable housing advocacy. Further, HDC pursues these goals through a lens of sustainability to reduce emissions and energy costs for residents. Their work makes our community a safer, better place for all who reside throughout the Puget Sound region.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply grateful for the Housing Development Consortium and their critical work, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to ensure that the residents of King County have access to safe and affordable housing.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCLAMATION FOR MISSISSIPPI TORNADO RECOVERY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as the people of the Mississippi Delta recover from the violent tornadoes that ripped through the 2nd Congressional District last Friday night.

Whereas, the communities in Rolling Fork, Silver City, and Winona were devastated by violent tornadoes on Friday, March 24, 2023; and

Whereas, the Mississippi Delta region is one of the most disadvantaged regions in the United States; and

Whereas, we mourn those who lost their lives, and I am praying for their loved ones in this difficult time; and

Whereas, President Joseph R. Biden, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, and Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Administrator Deanne Criswell acted swiftly to initiate a federal response for the disaster relief effort in Mississippi; and

Whereas, the state of Mississippi has neglected to expand Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act, costing Mississippi over \$14 billion that could have helped communities recover across the 2nd Congressional District; and now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the United States Congress sends its thoughts and prayers to the people of Mississippi as they pick up the pieces and emerge stronger than ever.

HONORING MAYOR ROBERT "BOB" BLAIS FOR HIS 52 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert "Bob" Blais on an incredible 52-year career as the Mayor of the Village of Lake George. He is currently the country's longest serving mayor and his extraordinary tenure stands as proof of his exceptional stewardship of the Lake George community. While he is retiring at the end of this term, the echoes of his remarkable impact will carry on for decades.

Mayor Blais has devoted the entirety of his adult life to improving and revitalizing the Village of Lake George. He was first elected a village trustee in 1968 but was also a staple in the community for many years prior, serving as a volunteer firefighter, a police officer, and even a dog warden. Just three years after his election to the town board, Blais then mounted a campaign for mayor. He took his first oath of office in June of 1971 and spent the next half century guiding the village toward a brighter future. From strengthening the infrastructure, to preserving Lake George's natural ecosystem, and bolstering the local tourism industry, the outsized effect of Mayor Blais can be seen throughout the village.

From his earliest years in office, Mayor Blais has worked tirelessly to transform the Village of Lake George into a world-renowned tourism destination known for its family friendly atmosphere and widespread appeal. He has been a patient steward of his community's success, a consummate public servant, always willing to set aside his own ego in favor of the village's best interests. Known for responding to every letter and making time for every concern, Mayor Blais put his constituents first, which is a model that all aspiring public servants should aim to follow.

No individual can claim a greater degree of personal responsibility for the village's revitalization and enduring success than Mayor Robert "Bob" Blais. He has dedicated nearly six decades to guiding his local community, and on behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize his exceptional leadership and celebrate his remarkable career.

GUN VIOLENCE IN ILLINOIS'S
FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart in the aftermath of another mass shooting in Tennessee that claimed 6 lives, including 3 innocent children. I stand here as a representative of a district plagued by the epidemic of gun violence.

Chicago, our beloved city, suffers from a firearm homicide rate that overshadows other major U.S. cities. From 2018 to 2022, almost 14,000 shooting incidents have scarred our communities and shattered countless families.

As I speak on this matter, I must emphasize the disproportionate impact on our Black communities. In our state of Illinois, Black individuals are 32 times more likely to die by gun homicide than their White counterparts, a rate triple the national average. This is not just a statistic; it is a heart-wrenching reality and a gross injustice that we must confront and dismantle with unyielding determination.

Our children, the beacons of hope for our future, suffer most in the face of this violence. Firearms are the leading cause of death for children in Illinois, claiming an average of 183 young lives each year. The stark truth is that in Illinois, Black children and teens are 13 times more likely to die from gun violence than their White peers. Around 60 percent of Chicago's youngest children live in communities where 91 percent of homicides took place.

Our children's mental health continues to deteriorate under the burden of fear and anxiety from exposure to gun violence. Over 1 in 4 parents report their children hearing gunshots at home, and 1 in 5 parents say their children's mental health has been negatively affected.

It is our responsibility as lawmakers and leaders to bring forth meaningful change. We must start by implementing comprehensive background checks, closing the gun show loophole, and investing in mental health services for those affected by gun violence. We must pass the assault weapons ban to remove military-style weapons from our streets, prohibit unlicensed firearm ownership, and mandate that firearms transfers occur only with a valid license.

Additionally, we must establish and maintain a federal record of sale system and conduct fingerprint-based nationwide criminal background checks. Had these measures been in place, the gunman who killed 5 people in Aurora, IL in 2019 might have been prevented from acquiring the firearm used in the shooting.

Our children, our communities, and our Nation deserve better. We must be relentless in our pursuit of a safer, brighter future. Let us be united in our resolve, with hearts full of passion and eyes set on the prize of a peaceful tomorrow. Together, we can turn the tide of gun violence and restore hope to our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, let us join hands in this righteous fight.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF AJ
GUNTHER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Allen "AJ" Gunther and his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Prior to joining my office, AJ served as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army where he participated in humanitarian operations in Haiti, as well as a tour in Afghanistan and South Korea. He now serves as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserves.

AJ joined my Tappahannock office in April 2021 as a Wounded Warrior Program Fellow and served in that role until April 2023. He helped resolve countless constituents' problems with federal agencies, contributing tremendously to providing the best constituent service in Virginia and the Nation. He has been a friendly and effective representative for myself, my team, and my work throughout the First Congressional District of Virginia and the Tidewater region.

I would like to thank AJ for his dedicated service over the last two years. He has been a key member of my district office team, and I wish him and his family the best as he moves on in his journey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing and thanking AJ Gunther for his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation. May God bless AJ and his family in whatever endeavors he pursues next.

HONORING THE YEARS OF SERVICE OF MS. WENDI LIPSICH IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my District Director, Ms. Wendi Lipsich, for her remarkable 26 years of public service in the House of Representatives.

Since the age of 26, Wendi has been instrumental in helping multiple Members of Congress successfully serve our constituents. Wendi launched her career as a Congressional District Director to former Congressman Robert Wexler in 1997, soon after she graduated from the University of Miami Law School. While working for Congressman Wexler, Wendi married her husband Todd, and had 2 beautiful children, Taylor and Joey.

In commemoration of such a noteworthy career, I would like to relay a message from Congressman Wexler:

With an infectious smile and positive spirit, Wendi Lipsich has been a public servant in the truest sense for three decades. Wendi has helped countless people solve problems big and small. Everyone—and I mean everyone—loves Wendi. And for a good reason. Wendi personifies impeccable character and integrity. What joy it was for me to work alongside Wendi for 15+ years. The people of Palm Beach and Broward Counties owe Wendi enormous gratitude for her never-end-

ing dedication and kindness. Wendi is one of a kind, amazing!

Immediately after Congressman Wexler retired, she was hired as the District Director for my predecessor and friend, former Congressman Ted Deutch, from 2010 to 2022. Congressman Deutch had this to say about Wendi:

Wendi is more than the district director. She is and will continue to be a good friend to anyone needing assistance. Even if it's not related to Congress, people know Wendi will happily do anything she can to try to help them. She cares so deeply about our community and about all of the talented people she has worked with to help our constituents. Everyone, literally everyone, loves and appreciates Wendi Lipsich.

Mr. Speaker, I have always known Wendi to be a selfless public servant, and I am eternally grateful for her service to the constituents of Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

In addition to enjoying her professional life, Wendi goes above and beyond to give back to her community. She is the founder and Co-Chair of the Boca Raton Lupus Walk with the Alliance for Lupus Research and continues to play an active role in raising awareness and funds to help cure lupus. Wendi has also been the Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach Board Member and Chair of the Student Life Committee, Guardian Ad Litem Child Advocate with the 15th Judicial Circuit of West Palm Beach, Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, Business and Professional Cabinet Co-Chair and Board Member, KidSafe Foundation Board Member, Spanish River Community High School Foundation Board Member, Junior League of Boca Raton's Volunteer of the Year honoree, Democratic Professionals Council of Palm Beach County, Alliance of Delray Association, Democratic National Convention Delegate and a supporter of many other charities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating my friend and colleague, Ms. Wendi Lipsich, as she embarks on the next chapter of her career. I am eternally grateful to her for her years of service to our Nation and wish her all the best.

RECOGNIZING CUSTER GALLATIN FISHERIES BIOLOGIST CLINT SESTRICH FOR EARNING THE OUTSTANDING FISHERIES PROFESSIONAL AWARD FROM THE MONTANA AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, Montana's biodiversity and breathtaking natural beauty attract countless researchers and naturalists to our great state. This makes Clint Sestrich's recognition as this year's Outstanding Fisheries Professional by the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society particularly impressive.

Clint became a member of the fisheries society in 1997 and has led multiple conservation efforts over the past 25 years. He distinguished himself on numerous occasions for his stewardship of Montana's fish populations, including his work on the Upper Shields YCT

restoration and conservation project, the Buffalo Creek Restoration project, and by securing \$1.5 million in funding for the Slip and Slide Creek Wetland Restoration and Curly-leaf Pondweed Eradication Project.

But Clint's biggest contributions to preserving the natural splendor of Montana's fisheries came from his recent leadership on the restoration of Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Clint Sestrich's commitment to conservation will undoubtedly benefit Montana wildlife for generations to come. His dedication stands as a stark example of the work all Montanans can do to preserve the natural world.

I'm honored to stand with the Montana American Fisheries Society and all fisheries biologists by recognizing Clint's inspirational service to conservation, and it is my privilege to acknowledge his work in the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 27, 2023, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote on two roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 163, and YEA on Roll Call No. 164.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, although I am not able to come in to vote because I have COVID-19, I want to make clear my position on Roll Call No. 167, Boebert amendment No. 2 to H.R. 1. This amendment would add a Sense of Congress expressing disapproval of the State of Oregon's denial of permits for the now defunct Jordan Cove Nat-

ural Gas facility in Coos Bay. Had I been present, I would have voted against this amendment.

The Jordan Cove Energy Project would have built a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export terminal and pipeline in Oregon's 4th Congressional District. Initially I supported this project as it provided an opportunity to bring good-paying union jobs back to Oregon's south coast and support a region still working to economically recover from the collapse of the timber industry.

The federal government and the state of Oregon have environmental laws and robust standards in place to ensure that significant projects are in the public's interest. As Oregonians, we demand accountability and will stand in defense against polluting our water or destroying our ecosystems.

The amendment on its face is ridiculous. The failure to move forward and build the Jordan Cove Energy Project is not the fault of the State of Oregon. Multiple state agencies conducted a thorough and fair review of the project. While some permits were denied, the project sponsor ultimately withdrew their application. In fact, the Oregon Department of State Lands granted the project sponsor multiple extensions to share the necessary information to process the permit. Blame for the withdrawal does not lie with the State of Oregon, nor the federal government.

Bringing high-quality jobs back to Southwest Oregon has been and continues to be a top priority of mine. We can do that while also protecting our environment and without building new fossil fuel infrastructure.

We are working to rebuild our middle class by bringing in good paying jobs and supporting our rural economies. That's why I am joining a broad coalition of people to support the Port of Coos Bay's container terminal project which would bring the West Coast's first ship-to-rail container port to Oregon. This container project has the potential to bring up to 9,000 new jobs to my congressional district and relieve supply chain congestion, all while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I'll continue to focus my energy on real solutions for everyday Oregonians and Americans as opposed to dwelling on the past.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote on two roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 165, and NO on Roll Call No. 166.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 3

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the 2024 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers budget and implementation of Water Resources Development Act of 2022.

SD-406